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Levels of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and child social, mental, motor, and physical development for the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies – Birth Cohort-- ECLS-B nine-month data wave

The ECLS-B offers a unique opportunity to prospectively examine the relationship between child developmental characteristics and maternal alcohol consumption during the last three months of pregnancy. At the 9 month data wave, the level of prenatal alcohol consumption reported by the mother ranges from not drinking, to < 1 drink, 1-3 drinks, 4-6 drinks, 7-13 drinks, 14-19 drinks, and 20+ drinks per week. At the 9 month data wave, a baseline of child birth weight, length, weight, health, mental, and motor status, social interaction and behavior at each level is established. This presentation describes child characteristics and finds by the 7-13 drinks per week level, that many child items show a significant difference from non drinking status. However, interpretation of these findings faces a number of challenges, including response rate to the alcohol use question and a range of differences in the age of child assessment at the different alcohol levels in the ECLS-B database and covariates. Since many conditions in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), are not recognized, or diagnosed in a timely manner, this study provides useful information to the community and a benchmark for future data waves.